



# Louisville Area Woodturners

LAW Newsletter September 2014

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Notes from the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting:

Our club voted at the September meeting. Five positions were up for renewal. After the voting Bob Faletti is the new president, Jack Parsons as vice president, Charlie Durham as secretary, Parker Curtis as treasurer and Kevin Lucas as the newsletter.

The October 9th demonstrator will be Rudy Lopez.

This meeting will be the last chance to turn in Christmas ornaments.

Dues for the year starts in October. It is 35\$ annually.

## **September 11<sup>th</sup> Demo**

The demonstrator for this meeting was Craig Jackson of Easy Wood Tools. He would cover how he got into tool making, the kinds of tools they make and how to use them for best results.

Apologies but some gremlin ate all the pictures off my camera for this meeting!

About a dozen years ago Craig got in to wood turning. Malcom Tibbets segmenting was an inspiration for it.

Craig was a machinist by trade and had some trouble riding the bevel of a bowl gouge. There seemed to be too much effort in using the gouge holding it down on your hip and working the point there. Bowl gouges and spindle gouges have different angles you need to hold them at to do the job.

How do you keep the enjoyment so the result is a bowl and not a bowl gouge?

What if like using a razor it is easier to use one with an interchangeable head than it is using a straight razor?

Craig took this idea and made himself a tool with a carbide tool attached to a bar.

The cutters are 100% American made. They use a mix of carbide and tungsten powder to create a fine edge. The company makes and grinds their own cutters. The tools now come with hickory handles. Once an edge is getting dull all you have to do is loosen the screw and rotate it.

They base the cutters on three factors. Grade of cobalt, grind of the bevel and the geometry in which they will cut. Inside curves, outside curves or straight.

Craig started with one tool that he could use to hog away and remove wood. A straight tool that would become the Rougher.

The round cutter on a straight bar came next.

The Easy Wood Tools are designed so that you set your tool rest so that the tools cutting edge is right at center. You do not need to move the tool rest height again unless you use a tool with a different sized thickness. Do not extend the bar too far over the rest.

Relax your back and hold the handle with a loose grip and in a comfortable position. Do not lower the handle! A thumb holds the tool bar down to the rest. Move your body as with any other turning tool.

The Rougher can be used in a back and forth motion like a regular roughing gouge or to take the stock down in steps about 1/2 an inch at a time. The bevel is your depth of control system.

The cutters come in straight or the R4 with a 4 inch radius. This cutter has the corners out of the way and allows for bigger curves.

The round cutter is good for making coves and bead. Work back and forth from one side of the cove then the other.

Which tool is the right tool? The one that lets you work safely and get the best results.

If you are not getting as good of a result as a bowl gouge the cutter may be dull or you are moving it too fast. The

slower you traverse the less sanding you will need to do.

Your last cut matters.

The diamond shaped cutter is good for small coves. You can make deep V grooves down each side coming in from one side then the other. For the outside curve on a bead work the tool in an arc.

Craig proceeded to turn a piece of hard maple round with the Rougher. He next used the round cutter and diamond point to make coves and beads. The finish on the piece was very nice.

The Easy Chuck idea was to make something in the U.S. and make it totally different. It has a zoom ring. Snap in interchangeable jaws, and screw tightens. The jaws snap and lock in and are not numbered like other chucks. These only come in dovetail shapes.

An accessory for the chuck are the Big Easy Jaws. These are made from aluminum plate. They come in 12, 16, and 20 inch sizes to fit your lathe. It has extended thick grippers work holding.

Easy Wood tools has come out with a new parting tool. It has a taper lock like a Morse taper. The carbide cutter is tapered in a V shape which is bigger on the top and smaller on the bottom. A flex key pin tool allows you

to push the bit in place or pivot to remove it.

Easy Wood tools has a line of hollowing tools. These are a flat bar with a C shape at the end. The cutter is aligned with the edge of the bar. The point of anchor is near the tool rest on your body. Set the tool rest at center height.

1. Make an entry hole.
2. For practice you can use a bowl and try and undercut along the top.
3. Use a Forstner bit to the desired depth.
4. You can use the #1 hollower to work the inside.
5. You need some relief to work the tool if there is a small opening.
6. You can use the #2 tool for small openings and the #3 tool for your final reach.

### **Show and Tell**

Jack Parsons brought in a Box Elder bowl and a maple bowl.

Joe Oberhausen brought champagne glassed and a multi axis bowl with three rings.

Keith Ware brought in a ceramic knife with a Brazilian cherry handle.

## Bonus Turning

On September 2nd Robin Costelle did a demonstration at the Louisville Nature Center. The subject was the way he grinds all his tools.

Most of us are familiar with the traditional grind that is flat across the tool and the swept back wings of the Elsworth grind. Robin has found another option he likes on all of his tools. It was inspired by Johannes Michelson.



The grind gives you a convex shape and an edge of about a 1/16 bevel at the edge. This does not need to be thick. You just need the edge and you have less meat on the tool meeting the wood.

Robin feels that he has more control of the tool because when you meet the wood you are riding the bevel.



1. get this.

Remove the heel by rotating left to right in 1. get this.

Remove the heel by rotating left to right in

A regular grind leaves a lot of metal at the bottom of the tool. The grind will round the bottom leaving less metal to get in the way.

2. Create your profile first. You want to grind the wings off the top.
3. You do this by placing the tool on the tool rest and starting high bring it down towards you.



4. You should end up with two flats on the top.
5. Bring the tool to a rounded point. Work from the heel to the top and back down the other side.



6. You want a flat surface with one facet around the edge.
7. Every 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> time moving the tool address the heel by rolling it side to side.
8. Sharpen up and down one wing and then the other in one smooth motion. Your goal is to remove the thick edge left by the flats you made earlier. You may have to tilt the tool just a touch over 90 degrees to get this.



9. Using less of a pointed shape is good for coves.

10. Remove the heel by rotating left to right in the same way you did the wings.



Now you can test how the grind will work.



On end grain you can point and cut and should get a nice smooth cut.

For spindle turning the small bevel engages quickly.



Robin next turned a small platter. You can do push cuts or pull cuts.



1. Flatten the outside edge.
2. True up the face.



3. Make a recess for the tennon.

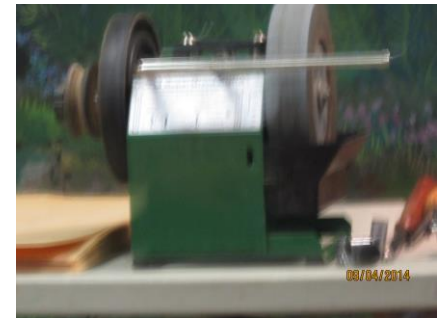
If the tool gets dull you can hone it.

Marvin Ewing brought along his Tormek sharpener to show another option for getting your tools sharp.

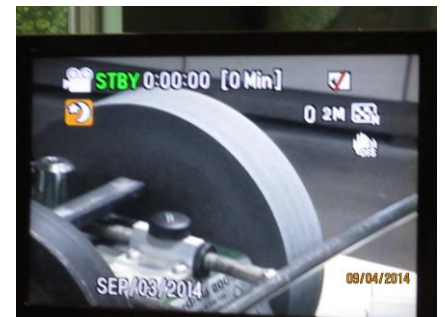


The Tormek came in two versions. The older green color with a steel shaft that would rust and blue version with a stainless steel shaft.

Marvin only uses the Tormek on his set of tools set aside for final pass cuts. If you have to sharpen a gouge clean the flute first or it will not be sharp.



The Tormek has attachments and set up guides for your angles. Different settings on the jig and setting number will give you different grinds for your bowl gouge.



For sharpening scrapers the Tormeks wheels move in the opposite direction from a conventional grinder. This pulls the burr up vs pulling it down.

For a skew it sets at 35 degrees.

There is also a leather side to strop your tools on get a really sharp edge.

The next meeting will be on October 9<sup>th</sup> at the Walden School at 6:30. Rudy Lopez will be the demonstrator. Hope to see you there and don't forget your show-n-tell and Christmas ornaments and Beads of Courage boxes.